

If you happen to stop by, you'll likely see Mary moving through the dining room with a radiant smile. Despite the whirlwind of a busy opening week, she shows no signs of slowing down.

"People will ask me, 'Aren't you tired?'" Mary says with a laugh. "I'm happy doing it because I see my customers eating the food, happy."

More Than Just a Meal

For Mary, Kemola is about much more than serving delicious plates. Her mission is to introduce the community to authentic Nigerian cuisine—a culinary tradition she feels is missing from the local landscape.

"It's not just a business, it's not just coming to sit down and eat," she explains. "It's a ministry."

That sense of purpose has fueled the Akandes for two decades. After moving to the U.S. 20 years ago, Mary carried her passion for cooking with her. Even while working full-time as nurses, she and Ola became the go-to caterers for their community, serving up vibrant Nigerian flavors at weddings, graduations, and birthday parties.

From Catering Dreams to a Neighborhood Gem

The transition from successful caterers to restaurant owners was a massive undertaking, but one they didn't have to face alone. With the support of family and friends, the Akandes were finally able to turn their long-held dream into a brick-and-mortar reality.

"It's like a dream come true," Mary says, clearly moved by the support she's received. "I'm so grateful because I'm not journeying alone, I have a lot of people joining me."

What's on the Menu?

Kemola is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, offering a wide array of options for both the curious newcomer and the seasoned lover of Nigerian food. If you're looking for a place to start, don't miss the fan favorites:

- **Fufu:** A staple dough-like side that serves as the perfect vessel for rich, flavorful soups.
- **Egusi Soup:** A hearty, nutrient-dense Nigerian classic made with ground melon seeds and leafy greens.
- **Jollof Rice:** The iconic, flavorful, and spiced rice dish that is a centerpiece of Nigerian culinary culture.

Whether you are looking to try something entirely new or looking for a comforting taste of home, the doors at Kemola are open. Come for the authentic flavors, but stay for the warm welcome—because at Kemola, you aren't just a customer; you're part of the family.